

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 19, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge William Q. Hayes today sentenced Javier Alejandro Barraza-Lopez in federal district court in San Diego to serve a prison term of 37 months for his role in smuggling a group of undocumented aliens and his attempts to avoid apprehension which involved his assaulting two United States Border Patrol agents.

As part of his guilty plea on July 30, 2004, before the same court, defendant Barraza-Lopez admitted that he attempted to evade arrest and, in the process, created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to others involved in the incident. When an agent, who was on foot, attempted to apprehend Barraza-Lopez on May 19, 2004. Barraza-Lopez drove off at a high rate of speed, dragging the agent for some distance and eventually ramming the car head-on into a vehicle driven by another agent, who was responding to the incident. Both agents sustained injuries.

United States Attorney Lam noted, "Smugglers motivated solely by greed are only too willing to put the lives of others in peril. The defendant more than deserved this prison sentence for putting law enforcement lives in danger."

DEFENDANT

JAVIER ALEJANDRO BARRAZA-LOPEZ

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Assault on a federal officer, 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1) and (b).

Bringing in an illegal alien for financial gain and aiding and abetting, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, El Centro Station
United States Border Patrol Critical Incident Investigation Team
Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Division, El Centro Resident Agency